(b) if so, what is the estimate of short supply of each of the petrochemical products during the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(c) what is the cost estimate in foreign exchange if this shortage is met by import; and

(d) whether there is any plan to meet this shortage by domestic production; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) At present the domestic production of polymers and few other intermediates is not adequate to meet the indigenous demand in full. The projected gaps between demand and domestic availability in respect of major products are as follows:

'000 MTA

	Projected gap between domestic availability and demand		
Product	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
1. Polymers	270	340	430
2. Caprolactam	50	60	45
3. MEG	56	84	104

(c) The estimated cost of imports to cover the above shortages during 1988-89 is around Rs. 1000 crores.

(d) Additional capacities are being established for the manufacture of above products in the country. In the Maharashtra Gas Cracker Complex, under implementation by IPCL which is slated for mechanical completion in 1989 the following products will be produced:

	'000 MTA
(i) LDPE.	80
(ii) HDPE/LLDPE	135
(iii) PP	60
(iv) MEG	50
Total	325

Similarly the caprolactam plant of FACT having a licensed capacity of 50,000 TPA is slated for mechanical completion in 1989-90.

Relief to P.S.F. Units

605. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial institutions have formulated a relief package to enable nascent polyester staple fibre units to overcome the depression in the market;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the effects of various steps taken to overcome the depression in PSF industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Financial Institutions have not formulated a relief package for new polyester staple fibre units yet.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The reduction in excise duty on PSF announced in this year's budget has helped in growth of demand for this product. Permission to export PSF has enabled improved capacity utilisation in the industry to some extent.

Non-functioning of telephones in Guwahati

606 DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the telephones in Guwahati are not functioning properly;

(b) whether some subscribers telephones in Guwahati have lodged complaints in the court against the Telecommunications Department for non-functioning of instruments and wrong billing for the telephones;

(c) if so, how many complaints have been lodged so far; and

(d) what measures have been taken in this regard?